

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 831

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville and applaud their members' commitment to supporting the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis and Middle Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary institutions that, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as estimable organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life of young people; and

WHEREAS, two such superlative organizations are The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville which have been strong providers of funding and personal services to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis and Middle Tennessee for many years; and

WHEREAS, although its origins date back to 1955, The Phoenix Club of Memphis was officially founded in 1958 with the noble purpose to raise the necessary funds to establish the first Boys Club in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, young men were invited to join The Phoenix as long as they possessed a sincere interest in furthering its goals and a potential for future leadership in the community; and

WHEREAS, the initial years of The Phoenix consisted of a slew of fundraising initiatives, including the very lucrative sale of American flags, titled "Operation Flag Brag"; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1962, The Phoenix Club of Memphis opened the first Memphis Boys Club, pledging to raise \$10,000 each year to help operate the new club; as the Boys Club program grew, so did the amount pledged; and

WHEREAS, by 1973, The Phoenix Club of Memphis, witnessing extraordinary growth, had assisted in the opening of the fourth Boys Club and created Camp Phoenix which served about 260 boys each summer; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, 1978, and 1979, the dedicated members of The Phoenix Club of Memphis raised approximately \$37,000, \$41,000, and \$47,000 respectively; in addition, during 1978 and 1979, the proceeds from the sale of the “Phoenix House” resulted in an extra \$25,000 toward the Boys Clubs of Memphis for use at Camp Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Boys Club was opened to girls with the expansion to Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis; and

WHEREAS, with their annual Greeting Card Campaign, Memphis Mardi Gras Party, Send a Kid to Camp project, and other fundraising efforts, members of The Phoenix Club of Memphis continue to make significant strides in helping to fund the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis; in the past ten years, their annual cash contributions have ranged from a remarkable \$146,000 to \$175,000; and

WHEREAS, hoping to replicate the success of The Phoenix Club of Memphis, the Phoenix Club of Nashville was established in April of 2001, quickly earning recognition and support from businesses, political, and non-profit leadership throughout the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, with proceeds benefiting the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee, the Phoenix Club of Nashville’s chief fundraising events have grown to become signature Nashville events including, the Equinox Ball, the Holiday Card Campaign, and the Taste of Nashville; the combined events have garnered \$210,000 in the past four years; and

WHEREAS, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee opened its doors in 1903 as the Nashville Boys Club and Aid Society; from 1920 to 1965, the Nashville Boys Club moved from its original home in downtown Nashville to eight settlement houses across Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Nashville Boys Club opted to consolidate its services and establish its own facility; with the help of some of Nashville’s most prominent citizens, the board of directors raised \$500,000 to build a \$30,000 square foot facility on thirty acres of land; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, the Nashville Boys Club initiated its second major expansion in its eighty-year history which included the opening of six new clubs between 1984 and 1996, and established equal services for girls; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, four more Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee have opened; these new centers fulfill a need to serve increasing numbers of at-risk youth, while providing the highest quality programming; and

WHEREAS, the devoted members of the Phoenix Club of Nashville are committed to helping the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee nourish this explosive growth; and

WHEREAS, The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville continue to go above and beyond the call of duty in its support for the Girls and Boys Clubs of Greater Memphis and Middle Tennessee, assisting with personal services and raising funds for the programs; and

WHEREAS, public servants of the highest order, the esteemed members of The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of this great State should honor and recognize the membership of The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville who have improved the quality of life for the youth of Greater Memphis and Middle Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud The Phoenix Clubs of Memphis and Nashville on their outstanding service to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis and Middle Tennessee, as we commend the members of these superb organizations for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.